

**NIC Information Center Quarterly Summary**

**Vol. 6, no. 4  
Fourth Quarter, 1987**

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## QUARTERLY SURVEY QUESTIONS

Agencies were surveyed this quarter on their policies relating to inmate education. Ten (10) agencies require all inmates who have not attained specific grade equivalents or minimum literacy levels to participate in education programs: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Tennessee legislature recently considered a bill requiring inmates to pass a basic education skills test as a prerequisite for parole consideration. The state's Department of Corrections opposes the measure on the grounds that it would significantly decrease the number of inmates eligible for parole and thereby increase the total inmate population.

Most other agencies provide special incentives for inmates to participate in education programs. Figure 1 lists these incentives as well as the criteria used to determine which inmates must participate, in those agencies that have established a requirement.

**Figure 1: Incentives and Criteria for Inmate Participation in Educational Programs**

	Where partic. required, the criteria used	Incentives				Other
		Extra good time	Extra pay	Parole board: may weigh	must weigh	
Alabama		--	--	--	--	--
Alaska		--	--	--	--	--
Arizona		--	--	--	--	--
Arkansas	WRAT or 4th grade equiv.	xx, for GED		--	--	--
California		xx	--	--	--	--
Colorado		xx	xx, regular pay for school time			
Connecticut		xx	xx, regular pay for school time			
Delaware		xx	--	--	--	--
Florida	GED <sup>1</sup>	xx	--	--	--	--
Georgia		--	--	--	xx	--

<sup>1</sup> Mandatory only for youthful offenders at specific units.

QUARTERLY SURVEY QUESTIONS, continued

	Where partic. required, the criteria used	Extra good time	Extra pay	Incentives Parole Board: may weigh must weigh	Other
Hawaii	See 2	--	--	--	--
Idaho	(N/A)				
Illinois	TABE or completion of 6th grade	--	xx	--	--
Indiana	Dept.-developed standard	--	--	--	xx 3
Iowa		xx	xx	--	--
Kansas	See 4	xx	xx	xx	--
Kentucky		xx	xx	xx	--
Louisiana		--	--	--	--
Maine		--	--	--	xx 5
Maryland	TABE / 6th grade	xx	xx	--	xx
Massachusetts		xx	xx	--	xx 6
Michigan		--	xx	xx	--
Minnesota		--	--	--	--
Mississippi		--	--	--	--
Missouri		--	xx	xx	--
Montana	(N/A)				
Nebraska		--	xx	--	--

<sup>2</sup> **Mandatory only at one facility in Hawaii. The property was formerly a military base and was transferred to the state with the stipulation that educational programs be developed. Inmates must sign a contract of participation.**

<sup>3</sup> **Indiana's participants qualify for minimum security assignment and better pay.**

<sup>4</sup> **Kansas is now updating its policies and procedures to require participation in ABE and GED preparation programs.**

<sup>5</sup> **Maine makes informal efforts to provide incentive.**

<sup>6</sup> **In Massachusetts, participation is monitored as part of classification status.**

**QUARTERLY SURVEY QUESTIONS, continued**

	<u>Where partic. required, the criteria used</u>	<u>Incentives</u>				
		Extra good time	Extra pay	Parole Board: may weigh	must weigh	Other
Nevada		--	--	--	--	xx 7
New Hampshire		--	--	xx	--	xx 8
New Jersey		xx	--	--	xx	--
New Mexico	Denny reading test; WRAT 9	xx	xx	--	--	--
New York		--	--	--	--	xx 10
North Carolina	(N/A)					
North Dakota	(N/A)					
Ohio	TABE, form 50R6 Level MRD (0.0 - 5.9)	xx	--	--	--	--
Oklahoma		--	--	xx	--	xx 11
Oregon		xx	--	--	--	--
Pennsylvania		--	xx	--	xx	--
Rhode Island		xx	--	xx	--	--
South Carolina	See 12	--	--	--	--	xx

<sup>7</sup> Nevada participants earn extra work credits.

<sup>8</sup> Participants in New Hampshire qualify for extra visits.

<sup>9</sup> Pending legislation in New Mexico would require participation for those meeting listed criteria.

<sup>10</sup> In New York, participants in appropriate programs earn certificates of earned eligibility; parole board evaluation then can result in release.

<sup>11</sup> Oklahoma participants are assigned to better jobs.

<sup>12</sup> In South Carolina, mandatory only for those under 25 years old, per Youthful Offender Act.

**QUARTERLY SURVEY QUESTIONS, continued**

		Where partic. required, the criteria used	Extra good time	Extra pay	Incentives Parole Board: may weigh must weigh	Other
South Dakota			--	xx	--	--
Tennessee			xx	xx	xx	--
Texas		Educational Achievement score of less than 5	xx	--	--	--
Utah	(N/A)					
Vermont		Completion of 12th grade	xx	--	--	--
Virginia		See 14	xx	xx	xx	--
Washington	(N/A)					
West Virginia			--	--	--	xx
Wisconsin			--	--	--	--
Wyoming	(N/A)					
D.C.		Stanford Achievement Test score of 8.0	xx	--	--	--
Bur. Prisons		Stanford Achievement test	--	--	--	--

<sup>13</sup> **Tennessee participants improve their prospects for a better job upon release.**

<sup>14</sup> **Virginia's program is not mandatory, but participation is strongly encouraged. A literacy incentive program is currently under development.**

<sup>15</sup> **Inmates in the Federal Prison System earn \$25.00 cash for participation.**